

Signing of nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

2452. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union had asked Indian Government to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by saying this would open the doors for civil nuclear cooperation with European nations'

(b) if so, Government's views and response thereto; and

(c) the details of agreement made with European Union during the last six months and its impact on Indian economy and security?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Government's stand on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a discriminatory treaty is well known.

(c) In the last six months, the following two agreements were signed:

- i. The European Commission and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India signed an MoU on November 27, 2006. The MoU is aimed at strengthening dialogue and exchange on employment and social affairs issues of common interest.
- ii. A 'Joint Declaration' was signed by the EU and Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India on November 23, 2006 on the occasion of the India-EU Aviation Summit in New Delhi. This is aimed at laying the foundation for closer cooperation in the field of civil aviation.

These are part of a continuing process to further strengthen the economic and business linkages between India and the EU for mutual benefit.